

## Newsletter – June 2010

### WELCOME READERS!

Welcome to the June edition of our newsletter! It has been a busy few months and this newsletter should give you an overview of some of the activities of the Committee and our dedicated supporters and members.

We are delighted with our awareness raising efforts which have included the launch of our brand new **Facebook** page and the successful **Brain Tumour Awareness Month** activities which raised vital funds.

We will continue our campaign to raise awareness and the need for increased funding for vital brain tumour research and trust that you will join us along the way.

We hope this newsletter will help to keep you informed of the work we are doing on behalf of members and our many supporters. We would love to hear from you if you have ideas for the next edition or indeed, if you have a story to tell. Best wishes to you on behalf of the Brainwaves NI Committee.

**Maggi Whyte**  
Chairperson Brainwaves NI

### 'HATS OFF TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

#### *BRAIN TUMOUR AWARENESS MONTH A SUCCESS!*

As part of Brain Tumour Awareness month Brainwaves NI supporters held a series of 'Hats on for Brain Tumour Awareness' events across NI. Brainwaves NI joined forces with fellow brain tumour charities throughout the UK to run the campaign.

Organisers were encouraged to pick a date in March and hold a 'Wear a Hat' day with all funds raised going to brain tumour support and research. Local 'Wear a Hat' day organiser, Maggi Whyte, chairperson of Brainwaves NI says: *'Every year 16,000 people across Northern Ireland and the UK are diagnosed with a brain tumour. More children and people under the age of 40 die of a brain tumour than leukaemia or any other cancer and five year survival is still only 14 per cent.'*

*'Brain tumours are indiscriminate in the people they affect: young or old, male or female, with no regard to race - we don't fully understand the behaviour let alone the cause.'*

*'By holding a 'Wear a Hat' day in March supporters helped to raise awareness of this disease and to encourage people to donate towards helping us to raise the funds to find a cure.'*

Brainwaves would like to give a big thank you to everyone who took part!



THREE CHEERS FOR MARGARET MITCHELL AND COLLEAGUES AT BELFAST METROPOLITAN COLLEGE WHO RAISED £120.



MANY THANKS TO RACHEL MCCALLUM AND HER COLLEAGUES AT MEDICARE PHARMACY IN CARRICKFERGUS WHO RAISED £110.

## ROUND BRITAIN WITH A BRAIN TUMOUR: JOSIE'S BRAVE JOURNEY

Josie Philips, from Ipswich is about to embark upon an amazing and courageous journey to sail round Britain, despite having being diagnosed with a grade IV brain tumour. Along the unbelievable route planned, Josie has scheduled in a stop at **Bangor Marina** on **15th July**.

Josie was diagnosed with a low-grade brain tumour in 2004 and in 2008 after three operations, discovered it had progressed to grade 4 (malignant). Since then Josie has been determined to live life to the full and enjoy every moment!

Josie will be joined by her husband Philip in an inspiring attempt to raise £20,000 for Brain Tumour Research. Follow the brave journey online by visiting [www.contessa32.co.uk](http://www.contessa32.co.uk)



**Brainwaves NI wish Josie and Philip the best of luck on their journey !!**

### FIND US ON FACEBOOK!



Brainwaves NI have recently set up a new Facebook page where supporters can keep up-to-date with the latest charity news. It also allows friends of the charity to share their views, photos and ideas with like-minded people!

Search for Brainwaves NI on Facebook.com and become a friend today!

### CONFERENCE: NOT TO BE MISSED!

The Charity is hosting a **regional conference in October**.

Themes of this half day event will include:

- Your local Contacts and Multidisciplinary Team – A Whose Who;
- Patient Information; and
- Managing and Living with a Brain Tumour.

Are there topics you feel should be covered? Do you have ideas that we could be looking at to include at your conference? If so, don't delay – let us know. Please contact us today at [brainwavesni@hotmail.com](mailto:brainwavesni@hotmail.com).

Also, keep an eye on our facebook page for up-to-date information on the conference!

### GET YOUR LOCAL MP ON BOARD

Now you have a reason to get in contact with your recently elected MP!

An Early Day Motion (EDM) has been raised asking for greater public transparency on brain tumour statistics and an increase in funding for Brain tumour research. EDMs are formal motions submitted for debate in the House of Commons. The motion is:

**That this House recognises that one in five of all cancers spread to the brain; notes that the number of children dying from a brain tumour in 2007 was 33% higher than in 2001; further notes that five-year survival rates for brain cancer are low relative to most other cancers; and calls for brain tumour research to receive greater cancer funding from Government than the 0.7% of all cancer funding that it currently receives.**

With a new parliament full of newly elected MP's now is the time to make sure your voice is heard!

Details on how to contact your local MP are on our Facebook page. Please play your part by contacting your local MP and asking them to sign EDM 1008.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE QUOTATIONS



Are you finding it a challenge to get travel insurance? While the Charity does not endorse a particular company, we have compiled a list of those willing to quote competitively.

If interested, contact Kate: [brainwavesni@hotmail.com](mailto:brainwavesni@hotmail.com); 028 335 3995.

## BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH TAKE THE PLIGHT TO WESTMINSTER

John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons, hosted a reception for Brain Tumour Research on Tuesday 23rd March.

***Brainwaves NI are proud to be an active member of the Brain Tumour Research Group.***

Wendy Fulcher, Founder of Brain Tumour Research Campaign (BTRC) and fellow trustees were among 120 guests who included a cross party group of MPs, brain tumour patients and their families, celebrities, scientists, neuro-surgeons, clinicians and charity representatives.

The Speaker's reception was an occasion when those present had the chance to elicit MPs' support to get the Government more closely involved on this crucial issue.

Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families was also there. In his speech he said: *"I congratulate all the charities on their excellent work to fundraise for research to help prevent and treat brain tumours. I will be speaking to the Health Secretary, Andy Burnham, to represent the thoughts and feelings of this community."*



ED BALLS, SECRETARY OF STATE WITH VAL & VICKY RINGER AND MR SPEAKER.



JOHN BERCOW, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS WITH SUE FARRINGTON-SMITH, BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH AND IAN REDDINGTON, CHARITY PATRON.

Speaking on behalf of Brain Tumour Research Wendy Fulcher, said: *'Those patients and families who have lost a loved one to a brain tumour want to see more resources being allocated to vital research. Brain tumours, one of the most aggressive cancers, lose out compared to other cancers.'*

### Some Statistics:

- 16,000 people each year are diagnosed with a brain tumour in the UK
- Brain tumours kill more children and people under 40 than leukaemia or any other cancer
- 20% of all cancers now spread to the brain
- Brain tumour research receives less than 1% (0.7%) of national cancer research spending in the UK

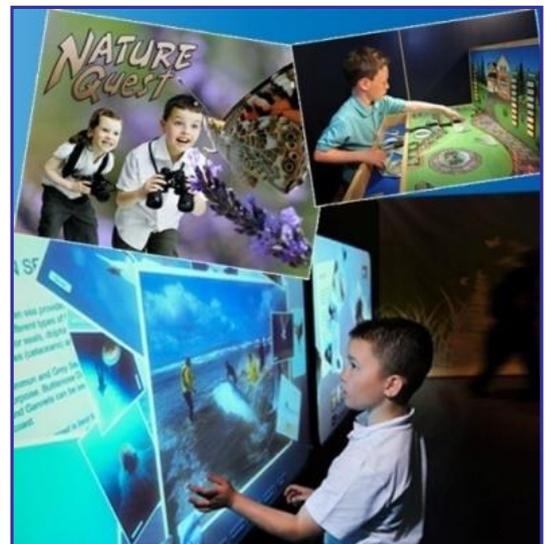
## A SOCIAL OUTING - YOUR INVITATION!

The next social outing for members of Brainwaves NI and their families is to **W5 Odyssey, Belfast on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June**. In addition to the usual exciting activities at W5 there is an exhibition, Nature Quest.

Organising and running social activities for members are a vital part of the support provided by the Charity. As one member indicates: *"The outings are great to meet up with friends. It always feels better having a chat with someone else who understands. Its also good just to relax for a few hours."*

To register your interest, please contact Kate ASAP: telephone 028 9335 3995; [brainwavesni@hotmail.com](mailto:brainwavesni@hotmail.com)

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Committee would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of the many friends and supporters who have joined in raising much needed funds. Some of those who have been active in the last few months include:

- Bangor Golf Club
- Belfast Metropolitan College
- Colin Clarke, Charles Hurst, Belfast
- Medicare Pharmacy, Carrickfergus
- Mount Ober Golf & Country Club, Belfast
- St. Mary's Primary School, Ballymena
- Ursula Ferguson
- Donation in memory of Barry Robert McKee c/o Hendersons
- Donation in memory of Barry Robinson

All donations received are used directly to fund, or further develop, the services provided by the Charity.

Committee members act on a voluntary basis. They all share the same ambition which is to work together to support those affected by a brain tumour.

The Charity receives no statutory grant.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you have any ideas for fundraising opportunities or events in your area, please make sure to get in touch. We can supply you with sponsor forms, t-shirts and other materials you may need to help you along the way!

Equally, if Brainwaves NI can support you in anyway, please contact us and we will make every effort to help!

## BRAINWAVES NI AND YOU

***The most important role of the Charity is providing information and support to patients and their families.***

As a charity made up of members affected by a brain tumour, we understand the feelings of isolation, fear and confusion that being diagnosed, or living with a brain tumour can bring.

We also understand the physical and emotional challenges and the need for appropriate and accurate quality information, support and advice.

If you would like to contact the Charity, please email [brainwavesni@hotmail.com](mailto:brainwavesni@hotmail.com). You can also call / leave a message on 028 9335 3995.

## YOUR COMMITTEE

A Committee, elected annually, oversees the work of the Charity. The purpose of the Committee is to ensure the continual development of the Charity and that it's services continue to meet the needs of members. The Committee Members **working on your behalf** are:

<b>Chair</b>	Maggi Whyte
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Sandra McKillop
<b>Honorary Secretary</b>	Kate Ferguson
<b>Treasurer</b>	Nathena McCloy

### Committee Members

Elaine Hayes	Kay McKenna
Maureen Kane	Evelyn McNeice
Tracey McAuley	Ethna O'Kane

**Charity Patron:** Pamela Ballantine

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS !

Last month Committee members helped twins, Maggi and Kate, celebrate a very special birthday!



Reflecting on the celebration event, Sandra McKillop, Vice-Chair Brainwaves NI said: *'We were delighted to share in the birthday celebrations. It was also an occasion for us to recognise the invaluable work of Maggi and Kate to the Charity.'*

*'Kate's commitment is relentless and in particular her ability to listen, empathise and provide the right advice and support to those in need is remarkable. Both Kate and Maggi are valued committee members and a formidable driving force in ensuring the charity continues to meet the needs of those affected by a brain tumour in Northern Ireland.'*



KATE FERGUSON (SECRETARY), AND MAGGI WHYTE (CHAIR) ON THEIR BIRTHDAY TRIP.

Maggi and Kate celebrated their birthday in style with a trip which took in Bali, Australia, New Zealand and California. They were delighted to catch up with Kate's son in Perth and family and friends in Sydney and Melbourne. The highlight was snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef!